

TOWN OF WINNETT  
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EXHIBIT 26 25  
DATE Jan. 14, 2013  
HB 6411

January 9, 2013

Department of Commerce  
Atten: MT Joint Appropriations Long-Range Planning Subcommittee  
Community Development/TSEP  
PO Box 200523  
Helena, MT 59620-0523

Re: Sewage Treatment Needs – Town of Winnett  
TSEP Funding

Dear Joint Appropriations LRP Subcommittee Members:

The Town of Winnett, like many other small communities, is in trouble. The sewage treatment facility that we have been using for over 18 years is no longer adequate. This is through no fault of our own. Our method of operation did not change, nor did our lagoons leak. The reason the sewage treatment facility in the Town of Winnett is no longer adequate is the ongoing changes to the MPDES discharge requirements as administered by EPA and the MT Department of Environmental Quality.

The changes in regulations resulted in an Administrative Order on Consent with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. A complete facility assessment in Winnett was performed by engineers at a cost of over \$40,000. The result of the assessment involves the Town needing to make significant modifications to our existing treatment facility at an estimated cost of \$2,300,000.

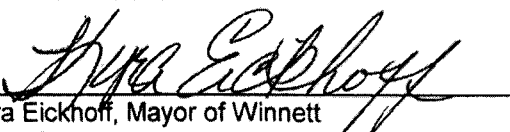
Our TSEP application was denied. Federal money has dried up. It is our understanding that the Town of Winnett is not alone. None of the small communities in Montana can afford costs of this magnitude. The simple fact is that the citizens of Winnett, all 182 of us, cannot afford a \$2.3 million hit. This is especially true when many of the citizens live at, or below, the poverty level.

Winnett has been very proactive in trying to raise the funds necessary to construct the necessary improvements in order to comply with the law. We hired two grant writers, however, without TSEP funding, this project is dead in the water.

Please reconsider the TSEP grant application submitted by the Town of Winnett.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF WINNETT

By   
Kyra Eickhoff, Mayor of Winnett  
[Kardy@midrivers.com](mailto:Kardy@midrivers.com)